

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT A 02541 152035Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SY-05 VO-03 SCA-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05
/059 W

-----075948 160615Z /21

R 151804Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5526

INFO COMNAVBASE GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK, VA.

CNO WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMNAVFORCARIB ROOSEVELT ROADS, P.R.

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 2541

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN SREF HA

SUBJECT: HAITIAN REFUGEES

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 2484

1. SUMMARY: FOUR HAITIAN FISHERMEN SAILED INTO GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE ON JULY 7, 1977. AN EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER SPOKE WITH THE MEN FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS ON JULY 12, AFTER WHICH THEY AGREED TO RETURN TO HAITI. THEY CLAIMED NO POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN THEIR HOMELAND AND STATED THAT THEIR FLIGHT WAS ECONOMICALLY MOTIVATED. THEY WERE AIR-LIFTED TO HAITI ON A GUANTANAMO/PORT AU PRINCE SUPPORT FLIGHT ARRIVING 4:30 P.M., JULY 12. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 7 AT APPROXIMATELY 7:30 P.M., A 16-FOOT HOMEMADE HAITIAN SAILBOAT WITH FOUR-MAN CREW ARRIVED BY CHANCE IN THE HARBOR OF GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE AFTER A 6-DAY SEA VOYAGE. THE FOUR HAITIANS IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS:
TI SON LIONEL DESIR, BORN 1952
EMMANUEL DORTUS, BORN 1952
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PORT A 02541 152035Z

MILORD DESIR, BORN 1942

LUMAH JOSEPH, BORN 1959

THEY WERE KEPT IN A SECLUDED AREA OF THE BASE PENDING ARRIVAL OF THE EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER TO SPEAK TO THEM IN CREOLE.

3. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE MEN AND THE CONSULAR OFFICER WAS GOOD. ALL FOUR ARE NATIVES OF HAITI AND WERE BORN IN THE ANSE

D'HAINAULT REGION OF THE SOUTHERN ARM.

4. THEY OUTLINED TO OFFICER ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN THEIR HOMELAND. THEY COMPLAINED OF DROUGHT, BAD CROPS AND LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, ALL VERY REAL PROBLEMS FOR THAT AREA. NONE HAD ANY EDUCATION WHATSOEVER AND ONLY ONE MAN, LUMAH JOSEPH, COULD SIGN HIS NAME. NONE KNEW THEIR DATE OF BIRTH. THEY CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD NO FIXED DESTINATION, BUT JUST KNEW THEY HAD TO GO SOMEWHERE MORE PROSPEROUS.

5. CONSULAR OFFICER ASKED WHAT PROBLEMS THEY WOULD FACE UPON RETURN TO HAITI. THEY CLAIMED THEIR SOLE PROBLEM IN RETURNING WOULD BE ECONOMIC. THEY WERE ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ANGRY WITH THEM, OR OTHERWISE HARM THEM UPON THEIR ARRIVAL. THEY STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT, JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER, WAS A TRUE FRIEND OF THE OPPRESSED AND WOULD HELP THEM IF HE ONLY KNEW OF THEIR PLIGHT. IT WAS THE LARGE LANDOWNERS WHO WERE THE PROBLEM, THEY STATED. THEY DID NOT INTIMATE ANY POTENTIAL POLITICAL ASYLUM CLAIM ALTHOUGH GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.

6. UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY GOVERNING CUBA-GUANTANAMO RELATIONS, THAT BASE IS NOT PERMITTED TO ALLOW TRANSIT THROUGH THE BASE FOR ANY BUT ASSIGNED MILITARY PERSONNEL. THUS, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPROPER TO HAVE SENT THEM ON THEIR WAY IN THEIR ORIGINAL BOAT, ASSUMING IT TO BE SEAWORTHY, WHICH IT WAS NOT. THEY THEREFORE HAD TO BE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PORT A 02541 152035Z

RETURNED TO HAITI, BARRING EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

7. WHEN INFORMED OF THIS, THEY COMPLIED, WITH RESIGNATION, STATING THAT THEY WERE AT THE BASE'S DISPOSAL. THEY BOARDED THE SUPPORT FLIGHT FROM GUANTANAMO WITHOUT INCIDENT OR COMPLAINT AND WERE TURNED OVER TO HAITIAN AUTHORITIES FOR REENTRY PROCESSING AT THE AIRPORT. THERE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE A PROBLEM WITH THE POLICE AND EMBASSY DOES NOT EXPECT ANY REPERCUSSIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT.

8. THE FOUR MEN STATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN TREATED VERY WELL AT THE BASE AND WERE THANKFUL FOR THE NEW SET OF HOSPITAL BLUES THEY WERE ISSUED. THE NAVAL BASE PLANS TO RETURN THE HAITIAN'S BOAT TO THEM ON THE NEXT MILITARY SHIP VISITING PORT AU PRINCE.
MEADE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTA02541
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770253-0950
Format: TEL
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770753/aaaabtjb.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c545c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PORT AU PRINCE 2484
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1848610
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HAITIAN REFUGEES
TAGS: CGEN, SREF, HA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c545c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009